

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A table, comprising a substructure, which is supported by legs (4,6) placed on a standing surface (S), and a tabletop (1) placed onto the substructure, characterized in that wherein

a) the substructure is designed as an upwardly open trough (2) which is arranged below the tabletop (1); and

b) the tabletop (1) is connected fixedly to the trough (2), thus resulting in a sandwich-like construction with mutual reinforcement of the tabletop (1) and trough (2), the trough (2) including a plurality of apertures (210) formed at spaced intervals along the longitudinal axis of the trough (2), each of the apertures (210) being sized and shaped so as to be suitable for receiving an attachable leg (4, 6).

2. (Currently Amended) The table as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that wherein the trough (2)

a) is of rectangular, trapezoidal, U-shaped or V-shaped cross section; and

b) has, at least on two opposite side, plane elements (25) which are fixed over their entire area or at a multiplicity of spot-type, fixed connections (3) to the underside

(11) of the tabletop (1).

3. (Currently Amended) The table as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that wherein

a) ~~the trough (2) for square or approximately square tabletops (1) likewise has an at least approximately square area; and~~

b) ~~for elongate tabletops (1) the trough (2) has an elongated area.~~

4. (Currently Amended) The table as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 3,~~ characterized in that claim 3 wherein the trough (2)

a) is arranged along the extent of the tabletop (1) and is provided for lengths of the tabletop (1) of preferably greater than 250 cm, with legs (4,6) having to be provided only in the region of the front ends of the tabletop (1) in each case, i.e. it being possible to dispense with legs (4,6) inserted in between;

b) has an average width which is a multiple of the height;

c) ~~for example,~~ has a width in the region of 50 cm and a height in the region of 10 cm, resulting in a ratio of 5:1;

d) the tabletop (1) protrudes in each case with a lateral projecting length (14) over the trough (2) arranged below it, and there can also be a respective front projecting length (15); and

e) the plane elements (25) are present at least on the two opposite longitudinal sides of the trough (2).

5. (Currently Amended) The table as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 4,~~
characterized in that claim 4 wherein the trough (2)

a) has, in the case of a V-shaped cross section, a trench line, which is situated right at the bottom, or otherwise a base (20), from which a respective longitudinal flank (21) extends to both sides, said longitudinal flanks merging in each case into an outwardly bent-over edge forming the plane elements (25);

b) preferably consists of sheet metal which is, ~~e.g.,~~ 2.0 mm thick; and

c) the fixed, spot-type connections (3) between the tabletop (1) and the trough (2) are screw connections.

6. (Currently Amended) The table as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 5,~~
characterized in that claim 5 wherein

a) the trough (2) is open at its end sides, but is preferably closed by a respective front surface (22), the front surfaces (22) extending as far as the underside (11) of the tabletop (1) or a clearance (28) remaining toward the tabletop (1); and

b) the base (20) and the two longitudinal flanks (21) of the trough (2) defining, in cross section, an upwardly widening isosceles trapezoid.

7. (Currently Amended) The table as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 6,~~
characterized in that claim 6 wherein

a) a strip-shaped vertical section (24) is situated in each case between the

longitudinal flanks (21) and the plane elements (25),

b) a respective vertical strip (23) adjoins the oblique front surfaces (22);

c) the gaps (26) arising between the converging front surfaces (22) and longitudinal flanks (21) remain open or are welded together;

d) the gaps present between the converging vertical strips (23) and vertical sections (24) are closed preferably by means of weld seams (27).

8. (Currently Amended) The table as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 7,~~
characterized in that claim 7 wherein

~~a) the trough (2) has apertures (210) and, in the case of an elongated trough (2),
has a grid of such apertures (210) for attaching the legs (4,6) in optional positions;~~

~~b) a) the attached legs (4,6) apply force into the edge around the apertures (210),
the apertures (210) being open and external; and~~

~~e) b) in addition to the apertures (210) external appliance apertures (211) can be
provided, for example for inserting socket units (80); and~~

~~d) c) installation apertures (200) as a means of access for lines and/or
installations can be provided in the base (20) of the trough (2).~~

9. (Currently Amended) The table as claimed in claim 8 ~~characterized in that~~
wherein the trough (2) has, in each case on both the longitudinal sides, preferably in the longitudinal flanks (21), a mutually complementary grid of apertures (210) for attaching the legs (4,6).

10. (Currently Amended) The table as claimed in ~~one of claims 7 to 9,~~
characterized in that claim 9 wherein the apertures (210) for attaching the legs (4,6)
extend, on the one hand, nearly to the vertical sections (24) and, on the other hand,
nearly to the transitions from the base (20) to the longitudinal flanks (21) in order to use
the reinforcing effect of bending edges.

11. (Currently Amended) The table as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 10,~~
characterized in that claim 10 wherein

a) each leg (4,6) has, on its head portion (43,63), a flange edge (432,632) which,
when fitted on, engages at least virtually completely below the edge of the aperture
(210) selected for the positioning of the leg (4,6); and

b) in order to secure the attached leg (4,6), a mating plate (49) is provided which
covers the selected aperture (210) from the interior of the trough (2) and is screwed to
the leg (4,6).

12. (Currently Amended) The table as claimed in claim 11, characterized in that
wherein

a) the mating plate (49) has a planar plate base (490) and a bent-over plate edge
(492) encircling the latter;

b) on the mating plate (49) there are screwing elements (491,493;491,499') for
which there are complementary screwing elements (430,431,499;630,631) on the head

portion (43,63) of the leg (4,6); and

c) in the fitted state, the plate edge (492) of the mating plate (49) sits on the edge of the aperture (210) selected for the positioning of the leg (4,6), in a manner at least virtually completely encircling it.

13. (Currently Amended) The table as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 12,~~
characterized in that claim 12 wherein,

a) the leg (4,6) is designed as a single leg (4) or double leg (6;6',6');

b) in the case of the single leg (4) or in the case of the double leg (6), one leg portion (44,64) extends from the head portion (43,63) to the standing surface (S);

c) in the case of the single leg (4), the leg portion (44) is formed by a leg profile (40) while, in the case of the double leg (6), two legs (6',6') emerge from the head portion (63), said legs spreading apart and being formed in each case by a leg profile (60); and

d) a height-leveling device (5,7) is contained in each leg (4,6); and

e) there emerges from each lower leg end (440;640,640) a base element (46) which is arranged displaceably, can be adjusted by means of the height-leveling device (5,7) and the set-down surface (460) of which is provided for supporting on the standing surface (S).

14. (Currently Amended) The table as claimed in claim 13, characterized in that wherein, in the case of the single leg (4),

a) the height-leveling device (5) comprises an adjusting screw (58) which is accessible from the outside and is preferably arranged in the head portion (43);

b) the adjusting screw (58) carries along a slide rod (50) which is mounted in an axially displaceable manner in the leg portion (44) in the leg profile (40); and

c) the slide rod (50) acts on the base element (46).

15. (Currently Amended) The table as claimed in claim 13, characterized in that wherein, in the case of the double leg (6;6',6'),

a) the height-leveling device (7) comprises an adjusting screw (78) which is accessible from the outside, is arranged in the head portion (63) and carries along a rotating spindle (71) on which a rocker element (73) is mounted in an oscillating manner;

b) in the leg portion (64) with the two legs (6',6') spread apart, a respective axially displaceable slide rod (70,70) is mounted in the respective leg profile (60,60) of said legs;

c) the upper ends of the two slide rods (70,70) butt against the rocker element (73) which determines, by means of its set height position, the push-in depth of the slide rods (70,70); and

d) the slide rods (70,70) act on the respective base element (46,46).

16. (Currently Amended) The table as claimed in ~~one of claims 13 to 15,~~
characterized in that claim 15 wherein

a) the base element (46) has a cross section which corresponds in principle to the clear internal cross section of the leg profile (40,60) at the lower leg end (440,640); and

b) the set-down surface (460), which is situated right at the bottom of the base element (46), is an oblique plane which compensates for the oblique position of the leg portion (44,64) with respect to the standing surface (S).

17. (Currently Amended) The table as claimed in ~~one of claims 13 to 15,~~
characterized in that claim 15 wherein

a) either a coupling element (45), to which the slide rod (50,70) is fastened at the top and the base element (46) is fastened at the bottom, is fitted between the lower end of a slide rod (50,70) and a base element (46); or

b) the base element (46) and the coupling element (45) form an integral constructional unit; and

c) the coupling element (45), which is separate or is connected integrally to the base element (46), is arranged in the leg profile (40,60) in a manner such that it can be displaced axially over a defined region.

18. (Currently Amended) The table as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 17,~~
characterized in that claim 17 wherein

a) the leg profile (40,60) is, in principle, of U-shaped cross section with a rear wall (400,600) and the two side walls (401,402;601,602) which are adjacent to the latter

and lie opposite each other;

b) the double legs (6;6',6') are attached to the trough (2) in such a manner that the two legs (6',6') define a plane which points in the longitudinal direction of the table; and

c) a leg covering (48) is provided for covering the open side lying opposite the rear wall (400,600).

19. (Currently Amended) The table as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 8 and 13 to 18, characterized in that~~ claim 18 wherein

a) the legs (4,6) are arranged with a correspondingly matched head portion (43,63) in the corner regions of the trough (2); and

b) in order to secure the individual, attached leg (4,6), a mating plate is provided which is put in place from the interior of the trough (2) and is screwed to the leg (4,6).

20. (Currently Amended) The table as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 19, characterized in that~~ claim 19 wherein

a) there can be at least one aperture (13,13) in the tabletop (1) for passing cables through or for receiving a socket unit (8) or for the insertion of a support (92) which, ~~for example,~~ bears a light (91);

b) structures (9) are provided for arrangement at and/or on the tabletop (1), which structures can easily be positioned and displaced or removed again ~~for example~~ by sliding over the table edge; and

c) such structures (9) are, ~~for example~~:

ca) a half-height, panel-shaped side screen (90) which forms a vertical delimitation on the table from the adjacent position and has, for example, an incision for securing it;

cb) a placemat (93) which lies on the tabletop (1), therefore defines a workplace and has, for example, a bent-over edge at the front for securing it;

cc) a utensil tray (94) which sits on the tabletop (1) and has, for example, a bent-over edge at the front for securing it;

cd) a high, panel-shaped side screen (95) with an upper part (950) standing above the tabletop (1) and a lower part (951) which forms a vertical delimitation into the vicinity of the standing surface (S), the side screen (95) having, ~~for example~~, an incision for securing it;

ce) a file/book rest (97) which sits on the tabletop (1) and has, ~~for example~~, a bent-over edge at the front for securing it; and

cf) a collecting container (98) which extends essentially below the tabletop (1) and has, ~~for example~~, an incision for securing it.